STAY HOME
STAY SAFE
SIDDHARTA

STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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MYSURU Thursday 9th April 2020
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REDUCE YOUR RISK OF
CORONAVIRUS
INFECTION
Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR

Walk-in kiosk to screen patients at Mysuru COVID-19 Hospital

- Innovative way to beat severe shortage of Personal Protective Equipment
- First installed in South Korea, low-cost kiosks reach Kerala and then Mysuru

Mysuru, Apr. 9 (RK&BCT)- Inspired by South Korea's innovative way of testing for Novel Coronavirus symptoms, the designated COVID-19 Hospital (District Hospital, Mysore) on KRS Road has set up low-cost kiosks at its premises for safe collection of samples of symptomatic people. The swab collection and screening process will begin tomorrow.

The COVID WISK (Walk-in Sample Kiosk) is shaped like an old telephone booth that is closed from four sides. One side is made of glass with two openings where detachable and disposable rubber gloves are fixed. The gloves are fixed for the health worker to insert a hand and collect blood and swab samples from symptomatic patients. After South Korea started this facility, certain hospitals in Kerala too installed such kiosks.

The kiosk will not require the staff collecting samples to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The staff can stand inside the kiosk and collect the throat swabs without exposing themselves to the person under observation. The exposed part of the glove will be sanitised after each use. Five screening kiosks and one sample collection kiosk have been set up at the designated COVID-19 Hospital and each kiosk costs about Rs. 40,000. Samples are collected under a controlled environment and the test results will be out in 30 minutes.

(See PATIENTS on page 5)

Emergency Cabinet meet on lockdown exit strategy

Ministers recommend extension of lockdown; State to follow Centre's directive

Bengaluru, Apr. 9 (Agencies)- The Karnataka Cabinet, in its emergency meeting held this morning, discussed the report submitted by the Task Force led by Cardiologist Dr. Devi Shetty that has recommended continuation of lockdown measures in COVID-19 hotspots and closure of all educational institutions in State till May 31.

The report was submitted to the State Government last evening and was tabled before the Cabinet.

Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa elicited opinions on lockdown exit strategy from his Ministers and those Ministers who were actually on the field — like Medical Education Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar and Health Minister B. Sriramulu.

Latest reports from Bengaluru say that at the Cabinet meeting, all Ministers have recommended the extension of lockdown period.

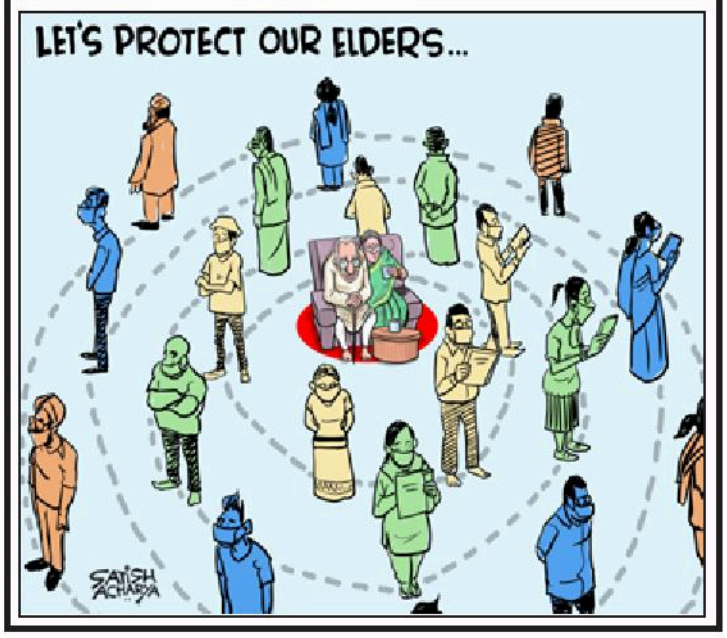
Yediyurappa told reporters that the State will closely follow the directives issued by the Central Government on lockdown relaxation.

"As of now, there is a favourable opinion to extend the lockdown till April end. We will see what the Centre decides and the State will implement the same," the CM told reporters.

The Task Force has recommended for minimising restrictions in districts where there are no cases or a few cases. It said all schools and colleges should be closed till May-end and thrust should be on online classes.

(See CABINET on page 5)

STAR PUNCH By Satish Acharya



STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."
Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.
Editor-in-Chief K.B. Ganapathy B.A.; B.L.
Mysuru, Thursday 9th April 2020

Forewarned is forearmed

The term *virus*, *understood* so far by an infinitesimal fraction of humanity across the world has witnessed universal familiarity during the past few months, thanks to the notorious organism identified as COVID-19. Even the unlettered masses in the country may have begun to know what it means by asking questions and learning about the factors behind the devastation it is causing, particularly triggering global lockdown and death of their kith and kin. But for the virus and the consequences due to apathy for knowing the actions needed in preventing its assuming epidemic dimensions, people at large would have remained ignorant about its harmful features. Time is appropriate, particularly to the literate sections in the country to get familiar with the *invisible* enemy made visible by Joseph Lister (1827-1912) and Louis Pasteur (1822-1895), the former propounding the *antiseptic* principle and the latter credited with the germ theory. The emerging virus-knowing literati, nearly all of whom are residents of cities and towns, can render a great help in explaining in simple-to-follow language, to the unlettered urbanites, even the rudimentary knowledge concerning the virus, an action that doesn't involve any cost but needs an element of humanitarian outlook.

Humankind in general and the land's past generations have not only survived the battering by various disease-death-causing vectors but also have laid down the ground rules for mitigating the loss of human and animal lives that have stood the test of time. Although advances in science in general and medical research in particular have taken place, the vectors seem to be having the last laugh. Some brushing up of knowledge about micro organisms that hurt life of all living beings should be a matter of prudence.

While *antiseptics*, which act against microbial organisms are applied to *living* tissues (such as skin) to *reduce* the possibility of infection, *antibiotics*, being prescribed by both knowledgeable medical practitioners and quacks, safely *destroy* bacteria *within* the body, and *disinfectants* destroy micro organisms found on non-living objects. *Microbicides*, which destroy *virus* particles or antivirals are effective against COVID-19 if used efficiently and effectively, but no remedial means are yet available to deal with the many harmful consequences caused by the virus, particularly infection of the lung. In this backdrop, all the measures that people are required to follow in their daily life, in spirit and word, particularly maintaining social distancing, remaining within the confines of homes, washing hands several times with soap and covering the face while speaking and coughing as well as sneezing, virtually are in the nature of fire-fighting exercises.

If every citizen in the land, irrespective of their profiles on various counts such as social status, age and so on had fallen in line with the guidelines, widely publicised, perhaps the drastic action called *lockdown* might not have been necessitated. Corrective action to *unlock* the lockdown on the part of *every* Indian should begin right away, remembering the advisory *Forewarned is Forearmed.*

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

As the entire planet is engulfed in a life-and-death struggle against the menacing Coronavirus pandemic, paeans are being sung to 'warriors' who are tirelessly working to protect people and halt the contagion. High up in that hall of fame is the print news media, which is braving sudden drops in circulation and losses in advertising revenues to keep on educating and awakening societies and governments at a critical time. Often derided as 'dead tree media' and a dying species which cannot compete in the digital era, it is print daily newspapers and established media houses publishing them which are critical to beating back the virus. *— Sreeram Chaulia in The Times of India*

NEWS SPARKLERS

Viral photo that turned a beggar into an online celebrity

Lucban: Four years ago, Rita Gaviola was a 13-year-old street beggar in the Filipino town of Lucban. Since then she has worked with some of the world's hottest brands as a fashion model, starred on hit reality TV shows and gained over 100,000 Instagram followers. And it was all thanks to a random photo.

Rita Gaviola's incredible 'rags to riches' story began in 2016. Back then, she was asking for alms on the streets of Lucban, to help her family make ends meet. Her father worked as a garbage collector and her mother stayed home to look after her and her five siblings so Rita often went out to beg for change or food donations. That's how she was spotted by Filipino photographer Topher Quinto Burgos, who happened to be attending the Pahiyas Festival in Lucban, in May 2016. He was attracted by her natural beauty and posted the photos of her on the internet, changing the girl's life completely.

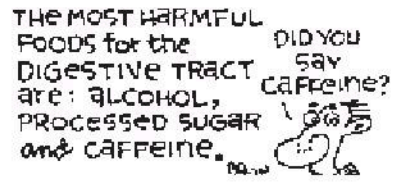
Politician buried in his beloved Mercedes

Eastern Cape: A prominent South African politician who passed away last week was laid to rest in his beloved Mercedes limousine instead of a regular casket, as per his last wish.

Tshekede Bufton Pitso, a former leader of the United Democratic Movement (UDM) in Eastern Cape, died last week, after collapsing in his driveway as he was making his way to his second-hand 1990s Mercedes E500 limousine. The former businessman had once had an entire fleet of luxurious Mercedes cars, but was forced to sell them in recent years, after falling on hard times. He did manage to buy a used E500, and even though it had broken down and couldn't be driven, he still enjoyed spending time in it and listening to the car radio. It was his favorite thing in the world and he even told his family he wanted to be buried in it when his time came. Last weekend, they honored his wish.

HEALTH CAPSULE by Bron Smith

What can I eat to contribute to good gut bacteria?



Resistant starches, like those found in beans, greatly contribute to the growth of healthy gut bacteria. The "good" bacteria that eats resistant starches shoots up by the trillions when beans are eaten, then quickly dies off when beans are removed.

**Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.*

EPFO issues revised instructions to facilitate PF members rectify their birth records

Mysuru, Apr. 9- In a move to extend the availability and reach of online services in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has issued revised instructions to its field offices to facilitate PF members to rectify their date of birth in EPFO records, thus ensuring that their Universal Account Number (UAN) is Know Your Customer (KYC) compliant.

The date of birth recorded in 'Aadhaar' will now be accepted as valid proof of date of birth for the purpose of rectification, provided that the difference in the two dates is less than three years. The PF subscribers can submit the correction requests online.

This will enable EPFO to validate the date of birth of members online with Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) instantaneously, thus authenticating and reducing the processing time of change requests.

EPFO has instructed Field Offices to expedite disposal of online requests, enabling PF members in financial distress, to apply online for availing non-refundable advance from their PF accumulations to tide over the COVID-19 pandemic.

Message for Employers

The Prime Minister has urged the Business Community and Higher Income Groups to not cut salaries or resort to layoffs of their employees.

EPFO requests all the Employers to not cut salaries of their employees who are not able to work due to diseases or social distancing. Your humanitarian gesture will support poor workers to overcome this hard time, the press release added.

Really...?

- ***Red-coloured fruits keep your heart strong.***
- ***Orange-coloured fruits tend to keep your eyes healthy.***
- ***Yellow-coloured fruits prevent you from getting sick.***
- ***Green-coloured fruits help in making your bones and teeth strong.***
- ***Purple and blue fruits help enhance memory.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Police officer: *"Sir, I don't understand. You lost the credit card a year ago, why are you reporting it now?"*
Guy: *"The thief wasn't spending nearly as much as my wife used to…"*
Police officer: *"But why report it now?"*
Guy: *"I think the thief's wife got hold of it now!!"*

Today's Currency Rate

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 76.39
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 94.64
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 20.80
1 Euro	= Rs. 83.00

VOICE OF THE READER

More on availing Jan Dhan benefits

Sir,

This refers to the news item ***"Women throng banks to avail Jan Dhan benefits"*** in *Star of Mysore* dated Apr. 8. I wish to clarify as follows for information of the public and the beneficiaries.

The benefits of such payments initiated by the Government are transferred through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

The amount will be credited to the account of the beneficiary to which the Aadhaar number has been most recently linked. As most of us are aware people have opened accounts in more than one bank and have generally given Aadhaar card copies to link Aadhaar to their respective accounts.

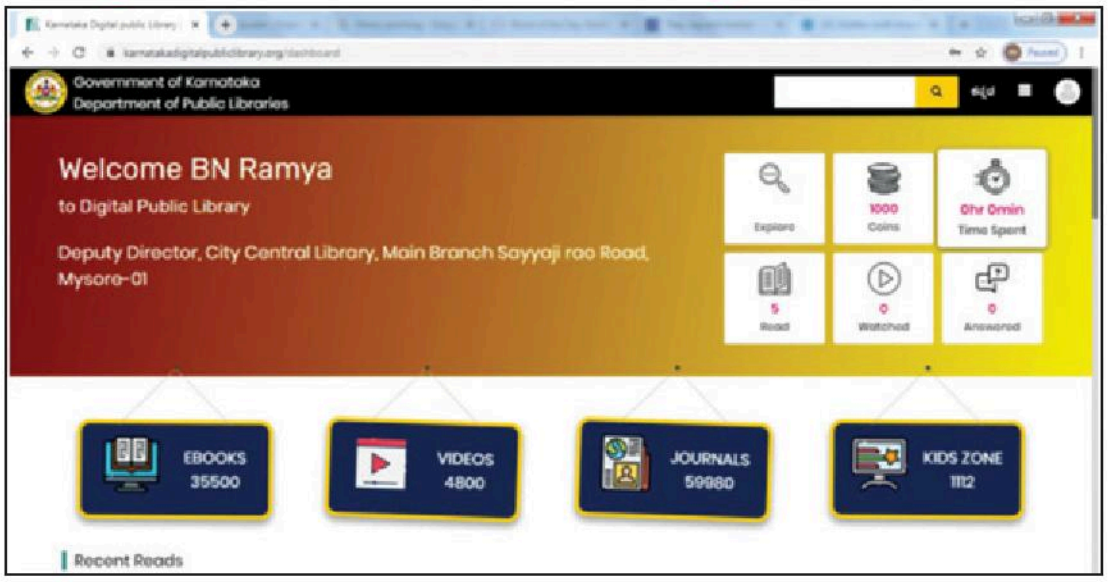
Every bank uploads this for updating in NPCI server. Once this is updated in NPCI server all such credits, namely, Pension, Gas subsidies, OAP, Widow Pension etc., will be credited to the account to which Aadhaar is linked.

We have been making this known to everyone in forums like Gram Sabha, SHG meetings, Schools, Colleges etc.

—V.S. Seetharam,
Counsellor, Financial Literacy Camp (FLC)
T. Narasipur 8.4.2020

Department of Public Libraries comes up with Digital Library

Now, public can access over 1,00,000 digital contents for free



Mysuru, Apr. 9 (PM&BNR)- In an attempt to keep the learning among the students active, especially those studying in Class 1 to 12, during this lockdown period, the Department of Public Libraries, Government of Karnataka, in association with K-Nomics Techno Solutions Private Limited, Bengaluru, has come up with digital library for students as well as for the use of general public.

The Digital Library can be accessed for free by logging on to *www.karnatakadigitalpubliclibrary.org* and registering themselves by providing mobile number or e-mail ID.

Over 1,00,000 digital contents, covering class-wise academic videos, text books, eBooks, competitive exam preparation for studies and employment, literature and novels, are available in multiple languages including Kannada and English. **As of now, Mysuru Library section features 35,500 e-books, 4,800 videos, 59,980 journals, 1,112 e-contests at kids zone and more.**

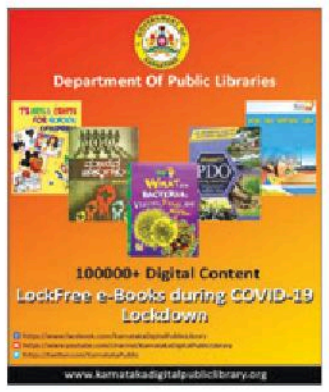
Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, **B. Manjunath, Deputy Director, Department of Public Libraries, Mysuru,** said that the Digital Library set up with the help of K-Nomics will be catering to people who register at *www.karnatakadigitalpubliclibrary.org*. One will get confirmation of registration in a time span of half an hour after registration. Those who register, can also download Digital Library App — ***"e-Sarvajanika Granthalaya"*** — on their mobile phones to access e-contents which are available in Kannada, English, Hindi and Marathi as well. However, one cannot download any content."

Urging the public to make use of the facility, Manjunath said that the Digital Library is a boon to students and those taking up competitive exams.

Answering a query if the Digital Library is accessible for free only during the lockdown period, he said that as of now it is accessible during lockdown and we are yet to decide on future action. "In future, we have plans to keep two Computers each at 11 libraries in Mysuru district including eight Taluk Libraries. Inbuilt Digital Library will be developed in those computers and public can access it for free when they visit those libraries. In Mysuru, City Central Library on Sayyaji Rao Road and Central Libraries at Kuvempunagar and Saraswathipuram will be getting this facility," he added.

'Downloading and duplicating is not possible'

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, **Dr. Satish Kumar S. Hosamani, Director, Department of Public Libraries, Bengaluru,** said: "Under the head 'Lock-Free e-Books during COVID-19 Lockdown,' Digital Library facility is given for free during the lockdown period. As the Digital Library website is developed using Digital Rights Management Software (DRMS), it is not possible to download or duplicate any content."



He further said that after lockdown is lifted, at first phase, 30 District Libraries, 26 City Central Libraries and 216 Taluk Central Libraries will get digital touch. "All these libraries will get two desktops and four tabs each. With this, Digital services will be made available at the library as well," he added.

Don't need standing ovation: PM Modi appeals to India

'Honour me by feeding poor during COVID-19 crisis'

New Delhi, Apr. 9 (Agencies)- As uncertainty over the Coronavirus situation and the potential extension of the lockdown continues, Prime Minister Narendra Modi came on Twitter to dispel news around a certain appeal going viral.

Taking a cue from the clapping and lights out campaigns, social media users have reportedly been organising an initiative to give PM Modi a five-minute standing ovation. The Prime Minister has now appealed people to not indulge in the campaign.

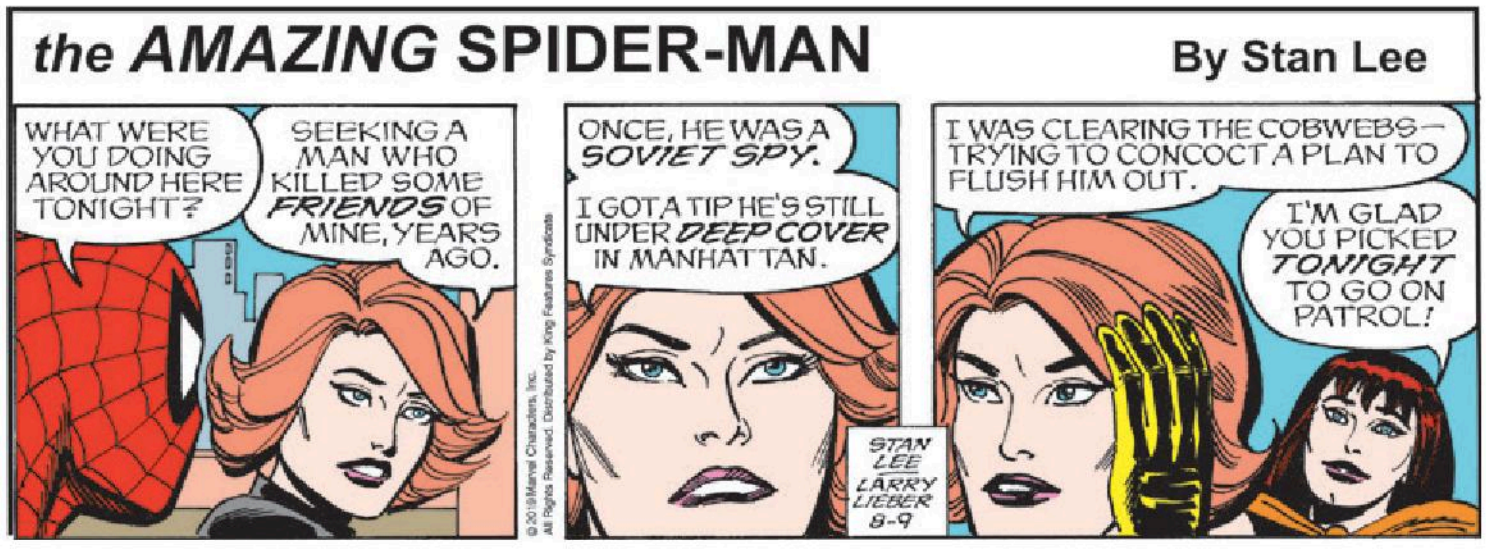
An anonymous poster widely shared on social media urges citizens to stand at their balconies and "give a standing ovation and salute our Prime Minister" at 5 pm on Sunday (Apr. 12). "This man has done so much for us and our nation," it says. "Mr. Narendra Damodardasji Modi for 5 minutes," the poster says, asking people to share the message with as many as possible.

Taking to his Twitter account, PM Modi wrote, "It has been brought to my attention that some people are campaigning to honour Modi by standing for five minutes. At first glance, it seems like mischief to drag Modi into controversy," he said. However, the PM said that even if it is meant as an earnest campaign, people should instead help the poor out.

"Maybe it is meant to be out of goodwill, yet I insist that if you really have so much love and want to honour Modi, then take the responsibility of a poor family, at least as long as the Coronavirus crisis continues. There can be no greater honour for me than this," PM Modi said.

Narendra Modi

State-run broadcaster Prasar Bharati posted a Fact Check on the poster calling it questionable and suspect. "The origin of this poster which is doing rounds in some social media circuits is questionable and suspect. People are requested to not pay any attention to it. PM Modi has said *prima facie* this seems to be an attempt to drag his name into controversy," said the tweet.


the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
By Stan Lee
WHAT WERE YOU DOING AROUND HERE TONIGHT?
SEEKING A MAN WHO KILLED SOME FRIENDS OF MINE, YEARS AGO.
ONCE, HE WAS A SOVIET SPY.
I GOT A TIP HE'S STILL UNDER DEEP COVER IN MANHATTAN.
I WAS CLEARING THE COBWEBS— TRYING TO CONCOCT A PLAN TO FLUSH HIM OUT.
I'M GLAD YOU PICKED TONIGHT TO GO ON PATROL!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 8-9
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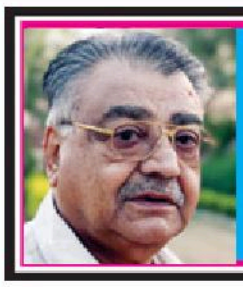


Abracadabra... Abracadabra...

By K.B. Ganapathy

Remembering Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj — 12

Life as a prisoner... and the great escape !

[Continued from April 6]

Shivaji in turn sent a message to the Prime Minister Umdat-ul-Mulk reminding him of the safe conduct granted to him. The message was to be conveyed to Aurangzeb. Unfortunately for Shivaji, the official to whom he gave the message happened to be the brother-in-law of Shayista Khan (whose thumb Shivaji cut off in an attack). He was intriguing in the Palace for Shivaji's murder. This official never gave Shivaji's letter to the Prime Minister and naturally Shivaji never got any reply from the Emperor.

Luck indeed had a major role in Shivaji's life of dare-devilry and military challenges. It was Aurangzeb's favourite daughter named Zinat-un-Nisa who came to his rescue. She had been watching the Durbar through a lattice and she had fallen in love with Shivaji. She had interceded for him with her father. Raja Jai Singh's son Ram Singh too was pleading continually for Shivaji's life and safety.

Three months had passed and Shivaji remained as prisoner in Agra. Shivaji showed no signs of anxiety and was friendly with the guards and officials. Shivaji, a man of extraordinary imagination in times of crisis like this one, had seen many such situations earlier in his life. Thus he began to plan for his escape all the time pretending to have accepted his fate as the prisoner of the Mughal Emperor.

One day, Shivaji asked the Emperor if his wife and mother could come and live with him in Agra. The Emperor was only too happy to give his consent thinking, with his mother and wife beside him, he would remain a prisoner or surrender completely to the service of the Mughal Court. However, they never came to Agra and Aurangzeb thought it was only a delay because of the rainy season in Pune (Maratha country)

and travelling would be difficult. In the meanwhile, Aurangzeb began to think that the tales he heard of Shivaji's valour and cunning were only fables told by his officers as an excuse for their own failures.

Shivaji made a second request to Aurangzeb to send back all his escorts of Maratha horsemen saying as a prisoner he (Shivaji) had no use for them. Aurangzeb was only very happy to grant his request. Now the Mughal guards in the prison thought they have nothing to fear from Shivaji. Shivaji began to cultivate Persian way of manners and food habits with the nobles of the Court to whom he used to send gifts of sweets and fruits and even food dishes prepared by his cook in a Maratha style in huge baskets. Shivaji too used to get such gifts in a reciprocal gesture.

By August that year, Shivaji fell seriously ill. He was bed-ridden and looked after by the Palace Physicians. It was from this sick bed that Shivaji planned to escape.

Aurangzeb's daughter who had developed special affection and love for Shivaji was successful in urging Aurangzeb to be patient with Shivaji as a prisoner. In the meanwhile, Shivaji fell ill to the point of being bed-ridden as mentioned earlier. However, his sickness could also be his cunning. He wanted the Mughal officials to know that the doctors alone could not cure him and begged the sentries guarding him to allow two of his servants to buy some horses to gift them to the temple of Lord Krishna at Mathura, located between Agra and Delhi.

The officer Polad Khan, who was in-charge of Shivaji's security, took it as Hindu's superstition and allowed Shivaji's servants to take the horses as requested by Shivaji. On August 19, 1666, Shivaji felt much better and told the official that he wanted to offer two baskets of fruits to one of the Court officials. The chief of Police, who was in-charge of Jaipur House where Shivaji was imprisoned, did not raise any objection for Shivaji's request. Therefore, two baskets came out of Jaipur House swinging on their bamboos without the sentries searching the baskets.

When the porters carrying the two baskets were out of sight from the Jaipur House, they put those baskets down. Out of one basket, Shivaji came out and out of the other basket his son Sambhaji stepped out. The porters removed their clothes and there were two Maratha Officers who stayed with Shivaji after he had sent home his other retainers.

It was recorded that while Shivaji left the Jaipur House in the basket, one more Officer of Shivaji by name Heera was used as a decoy for Shivaji. (It is said Shivaji had many doubles as decoys which led to his enemy's failure to catch him at all). Heera was made to lay down on Shivaji's bed, wearing Shivaji's clothes and his trademark chaplet of pearls. He pulled his blanket up to his neck and turned his face to the wall as though fever had returned. Heera kept one arm outside the blanket so that Shivaji's bracelet and Shivaji's signet ring (ring used as signature of Raja Shivaji in messages by stamping it on the letter) could easily be seen.

In the morning, the doctor came for massage and later at noon the guards also noticed that everything was normal with Shivaji lying down with fever. One report says, Shivaji known for his cunning and ability to bribe or charm his people must have either bribed or charmed the doctor and even the guards.

In such a conducive situation, Heera quietly left Shivaji's bed, put on his own clothes and walked out of the front door accompanied by the Physician who came to massage him, the masseur. Heera told the sentries who stopped him that Shivaji had sent him to buy drugs and ointments from the bazaar. That was the last trace of Shivaji, the Maratha warrior, in the Jaipur House as a prisoner of Aurangzeb, the Mughal Emperor.

It was only when there were no human movements or sound of human voices and no lamps were lit in the evening Polad Khan, the Police chief and his men realised what had happened. Polad Khan hurried to the Palace and flung himself before Emperor Aurangzeb. "Witchcraft, witchcraft!" he stammered and said, "He has vanished. Whether he has flown through the air out of the window or disappeared down into the earth we do not know," Polad Khan told the Emperor.

According to another version, it was Ram Singh, son of Raja Jai Singh whom Aurangzeb had made responsible for Shivaji's safe custody in the Jaipur Palace prison who broke the news to Aurangzeb. Aurangzeb immediately deprived Ram Singh of his rank and property and banished him to Assam where he died or might have been killed. The Palace courtiers in the meanwhile were whispering that the Mughal Emperor had silently ordered the murder of Shivaji that night and Shivaji might have known this decision of the Emperor and hence planned his escape as quickly as he could.

By now, Shivaji and his son Sambhaji had crossed the river in the ferryboat by bribing the boatman not to tell the Emperor's Officers that he had carried Shivaji and his son across the River Jamuna. From here, Shivaji headed towards Mathura on horseback, the horses that his servants took out of Jaipur House as an offering to Krishna temple.

[To be continued]

e-mail
kbg@starofmysore.com

Drones handy for Police to catch lockdown flouters

Mysuru, Apr. 9 (MK,RK&BCT)- They have been seen on the streets relentlessly seizing vehicles and grimly talking sense into compulsive lockdown violators. The Police in city have also started using a network of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs or drones) to track down lockdown flouters.

The drones are fitted with sirens, flashing lights and recorded messages warning people against going into public spaces without valid reasons. As of now, two drones are being used by the Police and there are plans to secure more such eyes in the sky.

Each drone can cover an area of 500 metres and can capture vehicles that are unnecessarily roaming around and spot places where there is a build-up of crowds.

"Drones are being used for monitoring purposes. There are reports of Mysureans openly defying the lockdown. The Police can't be everywhere, so remote controlled monitoring is also needed," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda told *Star of Mysore*.

Tracking people in narrow lanes

"Drones give us a bird's eye view of who is defying the lockdown in the narrow alleys and lanes where a PCR van cannot go in. We have repeatedly appealed to citizens to stay in, but despite that, many are defying the lockdown," he said and added that action will be taken against people based on the images of people and vehicles captured by the drones.

These drones are being used in thickly-populated areas like Mandi Mohalla, Udayagiri, Rajivnagar, Shanthinagar, Gayathripuram, Ghousianagar, Hebbal, Alanahalli, Kyathamaranahalli, Raghavendranagar, Kuvempunagar, Sharadadevinagar, Indiranagar, Manasagangothri, Manandavadi Road and Saraswathipuram Extension.

Criminal cases

The two drones have been procured from private operators and the operators are taken to destinations around the city to capture images. Criminal cases will be booked against violators based on the images captured, the DCP added.

Other Police officials said that drones provide real-time intelligence to the Police command and control centre, local patrol vans and ground personnel. In the event of any major public gathering, Police vans or ground forces can be immediately dispatched to the site.

The drones also reduce response time and also optimise resource deployment in areas which are not covered by CCTV cameras and narrow by-lanes where there have been found continuous public movement, they added.

Lockdown intensified

Apart from the use of technology to prevent crowd gathering, the Police force have intensified lockdown in many areas of the city to prevent the spread of virus. These measures have been taken following a directive from City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta and in the wake of an increase in positive cases from contacts of a religious gathering in New Delhi.

Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and staff from Udayagiri, Narasimharaja, Mandi Mohalla, Lashkar Mohalla, Nazarbad and Siddartha Traffic Stations are on the roads to enforce the lockdown. They are led by Devaraja Sub-Division ACP Shashidhar, Narasimharaja Sub-Division ACP M. Shivashankar and Traffic ACP Sandesh Kumar.

While there is a literal curfew-like situation after 6 pm, barricades are laid across the roads where each motorist is questioned, credentials checked and then asked to proceed only if there is a valid reason. Others are directed to head back home after a stern warning.

COVID-19: Two more test positive in Mysuru

Mysuru, Apr. 9 (RK&DM)- Two more persons from city — P183 and P184 — have tested positive, according to a press release from the State Government today. The total number of positive cases in the district has now risen to 36.

P183 is a 55-year-old male [Contact of 104 & 159 (Father)] and P184 is a 68-year-old male [Contact of P159 (Father)].

Till yesterday, 224 out of the 287 samples of Novel Coronavirus suspects have tested negative.

With the first COVID-19 patient of the district discharged on Tuesday after recovery, the district seems to have got some respite from the spread of the deadly virus.

However, following a requisition from the health authorities seeking a re-test of samples of four suspected persons, MMC&RI Dean and Director Dr. C.P. Nanjaraj has sent the samples to the Micro-Biology Lab of K.R. Hospital.

Meanwhile, the authorities have kept a close watch on the health of 3,305 COVID-19 suspects in the district. Out of them, 1,556 have completed their 14-day home quarantine, while 1,715 are still under home isolation. The health staff and the Police have been making regular visits to their homes to ensure that no one stray out of their dwelling.

DC Abhiram G. Sankar, City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta, SP C.B. Ryshyanth, MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde and other officials have been working round-the-clock to ensure that all preventive and safety measures are in place and that lockdown regulations and social distancing are strictly followed in the district. District Minister V. Somanna too is in constant touch with the officials regarding the measures taken.

Positive cases reach 5 in Mandya

Mandya, Apr. 9 (Nagaiah&DM)- Even as Malavalli taluk in Mandya district has been declared as a Containment Zone, another person, who is suspected to have had contact with those who had returned from the religious congregation in Delhi last month, tested positive on Wednesday.

Today, P185, a 32-year-old male (Co-passenger, Pharma company worker) from Mandya has tested positive thus bringing the total number of COVID-19 positive cases in the district to five.

On Tuesday, three persons from Malavalli had tested positive and now all the four are being treated at the COVID-19 ward of Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital.

Meanwhile, 51 COVID-19 suspects of the district are under observation at the quarantine facility of the Hospital and blood samples of 43 of them were sent to the lab for testing. According to lab reports, 27 have tested negative, while the reports of the remaining 16 are awaited, according to Mandya DC Dr. M.V. Venkatesh who also said that 93 persons in the district were still under home quarantine.

Minister R. Ashoka visits Malavalli

A day after Malavalli was declared as Containment Zone, Revenue Minister R. Ashoka, who is also the Mandya District-in-charge Minister, visited the town on Wednesday and took stock of the situation.

The Minister, who walked through prominent streets of the town, reviewed the enforcement of lockdown regulations and other measures in place including social distancing. DC Dr.M.V. Venkatesh, SP Parashuram, ZP CEO Yalakkigowda, Assistant Commissioner Suraj, Taluk Health Officer Dr. Veerabhadrappa and other officials were present.

Walk-in kiosk to screen patients at Mysuru COVID-19 Hospital

(Continued from page 1)

Results in 30 minutes

A nodal officer and a doctor will be present at the kiosk and they will certify if the patient is positive or negative. They will decide if the patient is to be isolated, quarantined or let free.

The positive samples are then sent to the state-of-the-art Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) at the Department of Microbiology in Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (K.R. Hospital) for confirmation and further action.

Shortage of PPEs

Sources told *Star of Mysore* that there is a shortage of PPEs in Mysuru. "COVID WISK helps reduce the consumption of PPE as health workers can safely collect the samples from inside this. This will also be helpful for mass screenings. If a large number of people from a particular area have to be screened, a WISK can be easily set up in that locality and it will ensure faster and simple collection of samples," sources said.

The nodal officer at the kiosk said that the structure is safe and an easy makeable thing. Crucially, it gives adequate protection to the healthcare workers as well as the patients. PPEs — costing Rs. 2,000 per unit — that are in short supply can be saved and can be used to treat the positive patients, he added.

The entry and exit to these kiosks operate automatically using magnetic doors. They also have an exhaust fan, a chair and ultraviolet light for a patient's convenience. After each patient leaves the kiosks, the gloves and chair are decontaminated with disinfectants and can be reused.

Emergency Cabinet meet

(Continued from page 1)

The Task Force is of the view that inter-State borders should remain closed and no buses, trains, flights or metro trains should be allowed till Apr. 30, while autorickshaws should be allowed to ply. The report said that the Government can consider allowing odd and even number registration vehicles to operate on alternate days.

The Task Force has recommended that IT-BT companies, essential Government offices and factories can function with 50 percent staff. Shops that do not have air-conditioning can be opened, the Task Force said. Inter-State rail services and flights must not start for now, the Government has been advised.

The Committee noted that rapid test kits will arrive in sufficient numbers after Apr. 12 which will help effectively ramp up testing and quarantining in the State. Local shops should be opened for longer duration to avoid crowd, said the report.

The report said that these recommendations should be in force between Apr. 15 and Apr. 30 and can later be reviewed.

However, the Task Force has underlined that social distancing should be maintained for the next six months.

De-congesting Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry

120 homeless persons moved to two other shelters in city

Homeless people playing carom at Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry in city. Picture right shows some of them being shifted to other shelters.

Mysuru, Apr. 9 (MTY&DM)- With Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry on Vinoba Road in city, which is sheltering destitutes and homeless persons in the wake of COVID-19 lockdown, getting overcrowded, the District Administration on Tuesday shifted 120 of them to two other new shelter camps in city as a safety measure.

More than 235 destitutes and the homeless, who were found at Bus Stands, Railway Station, parks and other public junctions, were sheltered at Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry.

With lockdown protocol in place, the Police had a hard time in maintaining social distancing among the inmates of the Choultry, who were fed by donors. As the Choultry became overcrowded with the Police bringing in 80 more homeless people from different parts of the city, maintaining the lockdown guidelines became a serious problem, following which the MCC shifted 120 of the inmates to two other make-shift centres.

While 70 of them are now sheltered at Nityotsava Bhavan near Hebbal Circle, the remaining 50 are sheltered at Neramballi Savitramma Subbarao Kalyana Mantapa in Lakshmipuram. The two venues were identified by MCC Commissioner Gurudutta Hegde and the MCC has been feeding the inmates, with the Police maintaining a strict vigil at both the venues, not allowing any inmate to come out.

MLA G.T. Devegowda launches distribution of Ration Kits

Mysuru, Apr. 9 (MTY&DM)- With several people facing a lot of difficulty due to COVID-19 lockdown, Chamundeshwari MLA G.T. Devegowda (GTD) launched distribution of Ration Kits to poor families in his constituency who do not have any Ration Card, at MCDCC Bank premises on Ashoka Road on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that the Coronavirus pandemic is causing great havoc across the globe, pushing people to untold sufferings and miseries.

In this backdrop, the State Government, as a novel initiative, launched home delivery of two-month ration (April and May) in advance to Antyodaya, BPL and APL Card holders. But there are many families in his constituency that do not have any Cards. As such, he has taken the initiative to distribute ration articles to over 3,500 such families identified by officials and he has come to know that there are many others who are left out, he said and added that he aims to distribute 5,000 Ration Kits to poor families and the needy in his constituency, for which he has contributed 10 tonnes of rice, four tonnes of tur dal, 3,000 litres of edible oil and three tonnes of wheat flour, while villagers of Gopalpura have contributed six tonnes each of ragi and rice. Also, 37,000 masks have been distributed.

Mysuru Tahsildar K.R. Rakshith said that 3,500 families in Chamudeshwari and 700 families in Varuna Assembly segments do not have Ration Cards. The Ration Kits are prepared using the grains donated by donors and the Taluk Administration has spent nothing for it, he pointed out.

Mysuru Taluk Panchayat (TP) EO C.R. Krishnakumar, Food and Civil Supplies Department officials, MCDCC Bank staff and others were present.

Credit-I takes responsibility of feeding shelterless

Mysuru, Apr. 9 (MK&DM)- Lending a helping hand to the MCC's initiative of providing food to the poor and the needy, city based NGO Credit-I has taken up the responsibility of providing food and articles of daily use to all the shelterless people housed at Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry.

Speaking to *SOM*, Credit-I Managing Trustee Dr. M.P. Varsha said that Credit-I with help from several other NGOs, has taken up the responsibility of meeting the basic needs of the shelterless and destitutes housed at Nanjaraj Bahadur Choultry in the wake of COVID-19 lockdown.

Pointing out that a watch will also be kept on the health of all inmates, Dr. Varsha said that several useful activities will be launched to keep them engaged.

Also, they will be trained for taking up self-employment once the lockdown gets over, Dr. Varsha said and added that efforts will be made to ensure that the inmates walk out with some money in hand once the lockdown gets over.

MCC Additional Commissioner Shashikumar said that Credit-I has been entrusted with the responsibility of taking care of all those sheltered in Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry till the lockdown ends, while the MCC itself will be in-charge of three other shelter camps in the city.

Unidentified body found

Mysuru, Apr. 9 (KS)- Narasimharaja (NR) Police have found a body of an unidentified man on the road leading to Varuna Canal and have registered a case in this regard.

The unidentified man, aged about 75 years, is 5 ft. tall, fair complexioned, oval faced, normal built and was wearing a white dhoti and shirt.

The kith and kin of the deceased, if any, may contact NR Police Station on Ph: 0821-2418312 or Police Control Room on Ph: 0821-2418339.

House burgled at Siddalingapura

Mysuru, Apr. 9 (MK&KS)- Miscreants, who gained entry into a house, have decamped with gold jewellery worth Rs. 30,000 and Rs. 20,000 cash from the house at Siddalingapura in Metagalli Police limits on Apr. 5.

The burglary took place at the house of Raghavendra. He (Raghavendra), along with his wife, had gone to Bharathipura near K.R. Pet to see their child on Apr. 5 and when they returned the next day, they found the door lock broken and on inspecting their belongings, they found a pair of gold earrings weighing 4 gram, one 4 gram finger ring and Rs. 20,000 cash stolen.

A case has been registered at Metagalli Police Station in this regard.

Back-end Offices supplement effectively in efforts of Indian Railways

To maintain supply chain during Nationwide lockdown

Mysuru, Apr. 9- Indian Railways is working in mission mode to maintain supply chain for transportation of all essential commodities such as food grains, edible oils, sugar, salt, petroleum products, vegetables, fruits, etc.

Over 9,000 freight trains are criss-crossing the vast Indian Railways network at higher speeds than in normal times because of de-congestion of trunk routes post total suspension of passenger-carrying trains from Mar.22, 2020.

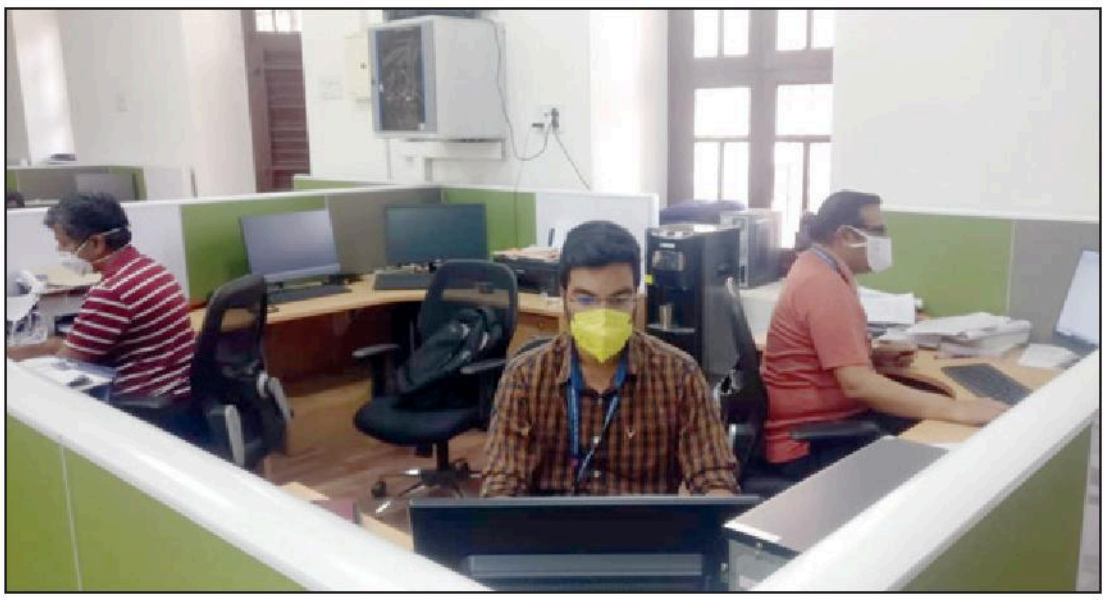
As many as 25,000 freight wagons carrying essential supplies to the nook and corner of (approximately 3 million tonnes) are moving on Indian Railways each day. Many relaxations in levies have been announced during the lockdown period.

An emergency control room is monitoring the freight movement in the country round-the-clock.

In addition to this, special routes have been identified for running of time-tabled parcel trains to keep supply chains of milk, fruits, vegetables and other edibles intact through close coordination with State Governments to ensure unhindered services.

Railways have already converted over 2,500 passenger coaches as Isolation Coaches that can be used to treat nearly 40,000 patients.

In such complex operations, Human Resource management in a large organisation like Indian Railways is extremely critical for ensuring continuity of processes.



The back-end management is handled adeptly by Departments like Personnel, Accounts and Stores.

Consistent with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) to the Zonal Railways, the South Western Railway (SWR), Mysuru Division, has also announced a schedule for implementing 'Work From Home' (WFH) System for nearly 50 percent of staff who are not directly involved in train operations and maintenance of fixed and moving assets.

In the wake of total lockdown to beat the COVID-19 pandemic work from home concept, confined primarily to IT sector hitherto, has now been introduced as a necessity even in the Railways.

Even with a little under 50 percent of manpower strength, the three in-service Departments of Mysuru Division, are effectively providing back-end support on issues related to manpower management, including disbursement of salaries and allowances, procurement of stores, notably critical equipment for medical staff engaged in the treatment of suspected COVID-19 cases.

The Stores Department has floated tenders for procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), infrared thermometers, N-95 masks, hand sanitisers, etc., the total value of which is Rs.21.49 lakh.

The Accounts Department has passed 380 expenditure bills valued at over Rs.13 crore together with staff salary bills for March.

The settlement dues of staff attaining superannuation have been arranged in time without causing any distress whatsoever. Subscription under New Pension Scheme (NPS) as also the contribution from the employer has been processed on due dates.

The Personnel Department is ensuring that all the 2,500-plus or one-third of the total manpower count of Mysuru Division working round-the-clock for train operations and maintenance of assets are paid salaries as before with special emphasis on their well-being.

A 74-bed Isolation Ward for treating COVID-19 patients has also been opened in the Railway Hospital.

Plans are afoot to augment Isolation Wards requirement if situation warrants.

A special recruitment drive is underway for hiring additional doctors, staff nurses and pharmacists on contract basis to meet any emergent situations.

The robust e-office system introduced recently on Mysuru Division has helped in creating a near perfect virtual workplace which is turning out to an important tool in enforcing social distancing and promoting work from home.

SWR Mysuru DRM Aparna Garg has lauded the contribution of these Departments which are silently contributing in these testing times and expressed hope that staff will continue to give maximum productivity even from the environs of their home.

Garg also complimented the staff of Mysuru Division for donating one day salary as contribution under PM-CARES Fund which amounts to about Rs.78 lakh, according to a press release from Priya Shetty, Divisional Commercial Manager and PRO, SWR, Mysuru.

Bylakuppe Sera Je School contributes towards PM and CM Relief Funds

Bylakuppe (Rajesh), Apr. 9- As a gesture of their goodwill and support in solidarity with the Government and the people of the nation in the fight against the Coronavirus and in line with the deep concern and solidarity expressed by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama towards those suffering due to this pandemic, the Sera Je School administration has made the following contributions:

1. Rs. 1,50,000 towards the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund.

2. Rs.1,00,000 towards the Chief Minister's Relief Fund of Karnataka State. **3.** Distribution of dry food items to 300 poor and needy local Indian families and 40 poor and needy Tibetan families. **4.** One day salary of all teaching and non-teaching staff of Sera Je Secondary School to PM CARES Fund.

DRM urges all members of Railway family to install 'Arogya Setu' Mobile App

Mysuru, Apr. 9- Aparna Garg, Divisional Railway Manager (SRM), South Western Railway (SWR), Mysuru, has exhorted all members of the Railway family, including pensioners, to download 'Arogya Setu,' the Mobile App launched by the Union Health Ministry recently.

This App helps users identify whether they are at a risk of COVID-19 infection.

Garg stated that Mysuru Division has a manpower count of a little under 7,000 and as on 8.4.2020, nearly 82 percent of employees, including close to 4,000 of their family members have downloaded the App.

Indian Railways are the country's largest employer with over 1.3 million employees on rolls together with a phenomenal number of pensioners/ family pensioners and as such, this App could prove to be a game-changer in India's fight against Coronavirus, Aparna Garg observed.

She further stated that this Mobile App was available in 11 languages and even the Railway Contractors, their employees as also family members should be asked to download this App soon.

The DRM said that the key objective behind this App is to notify users if they come in contact with any COVID-19 positive person at any given point and whether there are any chances to get infected. It also provides tips to protect from Coronavirus, she added.

She has also directed the Branch Officers of various Departments of Mysuru Division to personally monitor this for achieving 100 percent compliance in the next couple of days, according to a press release from Priya Shetty, Divisional Commercial Manager.

'Let us fight Corona unitedly'

DCP urges Muslim brethren

Mysuru, Apr. 9 (RK&KS)- "Let us fight the dreaded Coronavirus unitedly," urged Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda to Muslim brethren.

Addressing the gathering of Muslim religious leaders of Udayagiri, Shanthinagar, Rajivnagar and other areas during the Coronavirus awareness and peace meets at Meelad Park on Tuesday and Wednesday, the DCP said that the virus spreads to senior citizens, children and patients easily and social distancing in the only way to prevent the virus from spreading.

Apart from the Government, doctors, Police and medical staff, the co-operation of everyone is needed to prevent the disease from spreading as there is no medicine available for the disease yet, the DCP said and urged the gathering not to step out of their houses and help in the eradication of the disease. The DCP also urged the Muslim brethren not to gather for prayers but pray at their house.

Stating that the fight against Coronavirus is not a fight against any religion, caste, individual or community, DCP Prakash Gowda urged everyone to join hands to help fight the virus which was claiming a lot of lives.

Devaraja Sub-Division ACP Shashidhar, NR Sub-Division ACP M. Shivashankar and Inspectors participated in the peace meet.

'Do not to visit Khabrastan'

Tahafuz-E-Khabrastan Committee (Muslim Burial Ground), Mysuru, in a press release, has requested devotees not to visit the Khabrastan (burial grounds) during the lockdown period as the gates of the burial grounds would be locked besides stating that any person found violating the order would be punishable as per the law.

The Committee has also urged the devotees to offer Namaz and pray for the marhumeen on the occasion of Shab-E-Barat and also pray for the country for peace, harmony and to save people from COVID-19.

The press release also states that the gates of the burial grounds would be opened only in case of any death for which prior permission should be taken from the President/ Secretary of the Committee. People attending the Janaza should follow the limitation of attendees as per the directions by the State Government, the release added.

St. Bartholomew's Church donates groceries to the needy

St. Bartholomew's Church, the city's oldest Church, extended a helping hand by providing grocery bags to the needy in city yesterday. Church's Presbyter Rev. Daniel J. Kaundinya and Corporator Satish are seen handing over a grocery bag to a beneficiary in Ward 40 as Pastorate Committee members look on. The Church also distributed groceries to the needy at Kesare and other places in city.

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COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	3,305
Persons isolated in home for 14 days	:	1,715
Persons isolated in hospital	:	34
Persons completed 14-day isolation	:	1,556
Total samples tested	:	287
Samples found negative	:	224
Total active positive cases	:	36
Persons cured / discharged	:	1
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total active positive cases in Karnataka	:	157
Persons cured / discharged	:	28
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	6
Total active positive cases in India	:	5,534
Persons cured / discharged	:	473
Death toll so far in India	:	187

(NOTE: FIGURES TILL 2 PM)

COVID-19 District Emergency Control Room

The Mysuru District Emergency Control Room for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is functional 24x7 and has a team of operators and medical professionals who are working in shifts. All related queries will be handled professionally and necessary guidance will be provided to all callers, according to Mysuru DC.

Mysuru Helpline numbers
1077 or 0821-2423800
Karnataka Helpline number: 104
Central Helpline number: 011-23978046
Email: ncov2019@gmail.com

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ಸಾಲಿಗ್ರಾಮ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ನಗರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.
ಇಮೇಲ್:saligrama.km.mys@gmail.com

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.ಸಾ.ಗ್ರಾ.ಪಂ.ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ.02/2020-21 ದಿನಾಂಕ:07.04.2020

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ನಗರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಸಾಲಿಗ್ರಾಮ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಸಾಲಿಗ್ರಾಮ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಗೆ ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಜಾರಕ ಯೋಜನೆ (ಗ್ರಾ) ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿ ಪಾಲ್ಟ್ ಚಾವಣಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಈ ಮುಂದಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯುವುದು ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ: ಕ.ಸಾ.ಗ್ರಾ.ಪಂ.ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ.01/2020-21 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.04.2020. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ಸಾಲ್ಟ್ ಚಾವಣಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸಲು ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ-01: ರೂ.4,80,000.00, ಸುಣ್ಣದ ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ.12,000.00. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜುಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: ದಿನಾಂಕ:07.04.2020 ರಿಂದ 21.04.2020 ರಂದು 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಲಕೋಟೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.04.2020ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 8.00 ರವರೆಗೆ. ಅರ್ಹತಾ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ತಿದ್ದಿಯುವ ಹಕ್ಕು ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರಿಗೆ ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಮೇಲೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದ ಕೆಲಸಗಳಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ಪಡೆದ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

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ಕೃ.ನಗರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು

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